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## **Polyacetylenes and alkamides as modulators of PPAR activity and promising candidates for the treatment of type 2 diabetes**

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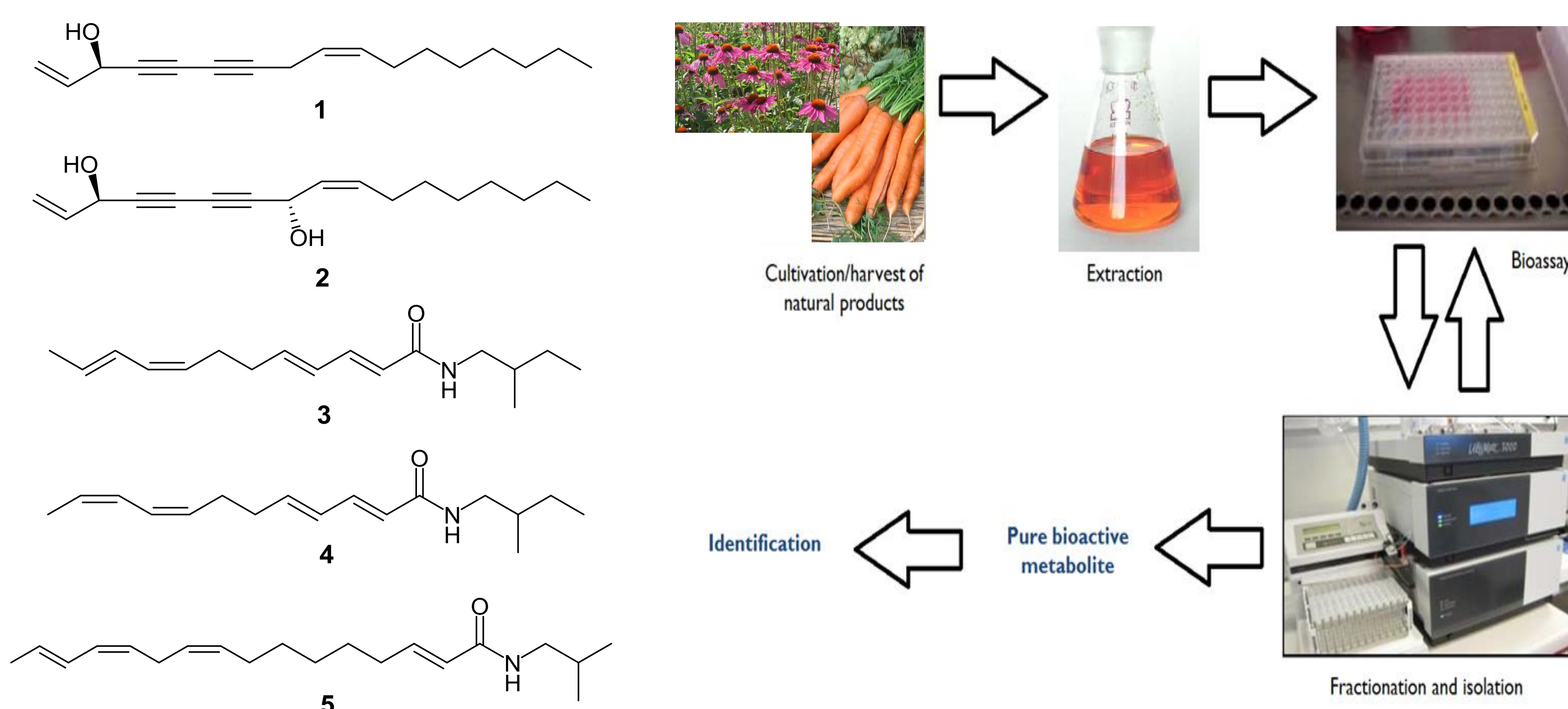
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## INTRODUCTION

Screening of food and medicinal plants for antidiabetic effects revealed that in particular extracts of carrot (*Daucus carota*) and purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) contain compounds with promising effects on type 2 diabetes (T2D) [1, 2]. A bioassay-guided fractionation approach resulted in the isolation of the polyacetylenes **1** and **2** from carrots [3] and the alkamides **3–5** from *E. purpurea* extracts (Fig. 1) [4, 5]. All compounds are able to stimulate insulin-dependent glucose uptake (GU) and transactivate the nuclear receptor PPAR $\gamma$  in adipocytes in a dose-dependent manner, but to a different extent and show the characteristics of PPAR $\gamma$  partial agonists [3, 5].

## IN VITRO TRANSACTIVATION OF PPAR $\gamma$



**Table 1.** Transactivation of PPAR $\gamma$  by **1–5**

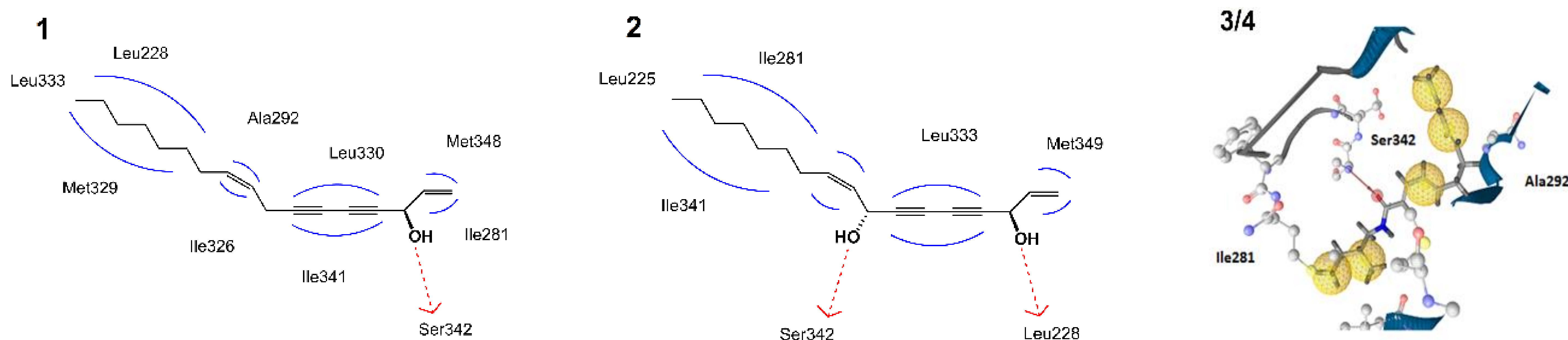
Compound	Fold activation of PPAR $\gamma$ <sup>a</sup>
<b>1</b>	1.2 ± 0.5 [3]
<b>2</b>	3.5 ± 1.5 [3]
<b>3/4</b>	12 ± 1.3 [4]
<b>5</b>	13 ± 2.4 [5]

<sup>a</sup>Transactivation of PPAR $\gamma$  by **1–5** (30  $\mu$ M) relative to DMSO (vehicle). DMSO was set to 1 and the results normalized to this. Rosi (1  $\mu$ M) was the positive control. All values are expressed as mean ± SD of three independent experiments in triplicates.

**Fig. 1.** Polyacetylenes (**1** and **2**) and alkamides (**3–5**) isolated by a bioassay-guided fractionation approach have demonstrated promising antidiabetic effects.

## IN SILICO DOCKING STUDIES

Molecular docking studies of **1–5** revealed the characteristic binding modes of partial PPAR $\gamma$  agonists with a hydrogen bond to Ser342 (Fig. 2). Compounds **1–5** also showed hydrophobic contacts but to different amino acids in the ligand binding domain of PPAR $\gamma$ , which can explain the differences in insulin-dependent GU and PPAR $\gamma$  activity observed for **1–5** (Table 1) [3–5]. The present results indicate that **1–5** may represent scaffolds for the development of partial PPAR $\gamma$  agonists for the treatment of T2D.



**Fig. 2.** Potential binding conformation of **1** and **2** in PPAR $\gamma$  (PDB code 2Q5S) in 2D and **3/4** in 3D. Blue brace/yellow spheres indicate lipophilic areas and red arrows indicate hydrogen bonds.

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